

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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-----084492 231200Z /53

R 230621Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7414
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 03489

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE, XA, CG
SUBJECT: GDR TREATMENT OF SHABA EVENTS

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE, THE GDR IN ITS PRESS TREATMENT HAS CLEARLY CONDEMNED US AND WEST EUROPEAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA. FOR THE FIRST DAYS OF THE FIGHTING EAST GERMAN MEDIA TREATMENT WAS RELATIVELY FACTUAL AND BALANCED. HOWEVER, THE PRESS OF MAY 22 IS CRITICAL OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF US AND EUROPEAN ELEMENTS. UNDER THE HEADLINE "NATO MASSIVELY INTERVENES IN THE STRUGGLE
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IN SHABA" NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPERS LANDING IN THE AREAS OF KOLWEZI AND THE USE OF US AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT "SOLDIERS, WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS." THE ONLY PICTURE FEATURED IS OF A US AIR FORCE C-141. THE TONE OF THE PRESS TREATMENT IS SET BY A TASS ARTICLE SUMMARIZED IN ND WHICH BEGINS BY STATING

THAT "BEHIND THE ARMED INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE, ORGANIZED BY THE US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, STAND THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND, IN THE FIRST PLACE, AMERICAN MONOPOLIES WHICH HAVE GREAT INTERESTS IN THIS AREA." ND ALSO REPORTS ON THE WFTU ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRAGUE OPPOSING THE "IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION" IN SHABA. THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN THE LATEST NEWS TREATMENT TO THE RESCUE OPERATIONS. RATHER, THE IMPRESSION IS LEFT THAT THESE OUTSIDE FORCES ARE ENGAGING IN A FIGHT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND CONGO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT FORCES.

2. COMMENT: THE GENERAL THEME IN THE PRESS IS THAT NATO POWERS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE US, HAS INTERVENED TO PROTECT ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THE GDR HAS SO FAR REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF MOBUTU OR OF OVERT SUPPORT FOR THE SECESSIONIST CAUSE AND THE CONGO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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